

## METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING ALTERNATIVES FOR TEXT DERIVED FROM STOCHASTIC INPUT SOURCES

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5

A computer-implemented method for providing a candidate list of alternatives for a text selection containing text from multiple input sources, each of which can be stochastic (such as a speech recognition unit, handwriting recognition unit, or input method editor) or non-stochastic (such as a keyboard and mouse). A text component of the text selection may be the result of data processed through a series of stochastic input sources, such as speech input that is converted to text by a speech recognition unit before being used as input into an input method editor. To determine alternatives for the text selection, a stochastic input combiner parses the text selection into text components from different input sources. For each stochastic text component, the combiner retrieves a stochastic model containing alternatives for the text component. If the stochastic text component is the result of a series of stochastic input sources, the combiner derives a stochastic model that accurately reflects the probabilities of the results of the entire series. The combiner creates a list of alternatives for the text selection by combining the stochastic models retrieved. The combiner may revise the list of alternatives by applying natural language principles to the text selection as a whole. The list of alternatives for the text selection is then presented to the user. If the user chooses one of the alternatives, then the word processor replaces the text selection with the chosen candidate.

25